

We Resolve To Do Better

"When in high school," says one, "I resolved to review my Latin course during Christmas vacation. Altho I was perfectly honest with myself and sincere in my resolution as the semester closed, yet I fell down flat. When school opened in January, I hadn't peeped into my Latin book even once."

What was wrong here? The resolution? Or a lack of a simple, definite plan of action?

Normal people all the time, it seems, are self-consciously resolving to do better. It may be to dance better, impress people better, dress better, or to study harder, read certain books, or break old habits. Yes, it's perfectly natural to make good resolutions. "Nothing wrong with that."

Yet repeated failure to keep one's good resolves can bring that defeatist snicker, "I don't believe in making resolutions."

Aspiring spirits, however, pick themselves up after each defeat of the will, look the thing squarely in the face again and again, and set out afresh until one finds a workable plan that actually implements the urge "to do better."

After, perhaps, a score of failures comes at last one success. A life is lifted higher.

"Keep at the thing until you accomplish it." A young man resolved "to make" the town baseball team. For extra practice he used the back of the old barn as a bouncing board hour after

hour, day after day. Improvement in the game naturally followed. He rose to be captain of the team. That youth later built up a stock brokerage business in his twenties, then organized an insurance company in his own name, was chosen an apostle and became the man the world respected as Pres. Heber J. Grant.

Good Resolutions A Form of Repentance
Repentance is a term generally used only in the religious sense. Yet it is not merely part of the constant urge driving everyone "to do better."

To resist that urge is not only spiritual bankruptcy, but social and economical death. One can't stand still very long in matters of mind or the spirit before a slipping back begins.

Fortunately the mental, economic, or spiritual ditch into which one thus slips, generally contains enough cold water to soon awaken the ego to vigorous flopping and eventual recovery of the highway.

Then one usually begins in real earnest, at least consistently obeys his urges "to do better," finds the ways and means to climb the ladder called "excellence," and is on the way to be something, whether the aim is economic, artistic, social, or religious.

It's an urge felt even in our self-made hells, here and hereafter.

It seems to lead up to God's implanted urge, "Be ye perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect."

New World Archaeological Foundation

The Northern California Mormon colony may well be proud of the new development in research in Book of Mormon archaeological finds.

In December 1952 announcement was made of field work already in progress in southern Mexico by the California organized New World Archaeological Foundation.

Letting it be known that the local member, Attorney Thomas Stuart Ferguson of Orinda is the president and leading spirit, with W. Scott Dunham of Berkeley and San Francisco, is the treasurer.

We understand that heads of departments of archaeology in several American universities and other scientific bodies are now serving as officers and members of the foundation's advisory council of five. Dr. Kidder, general, able and long time director of archaeological research for the great Carnegie Institute of Washington, D. C., reportedly vice president of NWAF, is well-known to East Bay Church members thru his pleasant and ready willingness to lecture before

church meetings on Middle American archaeological excavations. He was heard in public and private talks during his stay at the University of California in 1950, encouraging church members to unite and promote further archaeological research in what our people feel are Book of Mormon lands in Central America and Mexico.

Time alone will tell the outcome of what is being done today thru this new-born exploration society. It is commendable, however, in every way to see our people join with learned and able men to seek further external evidence of the authenticity of the Book of Mormon. Thus one sees learning and prayer joined together in seeking knowledge just as the revelation advises.

Commendable also is the ready support continuously coming from our people for the worthy objectives of the New World Archaeological Foundation. It is felt, we believe, that this support will still further increase as the work progresses.

Noted Columnist Favors School Bible Reading

Dorothy Thompson, internationally known columnist, recently wrote boldly on the sad state of the world, and declared that "The Bible has not only had a decisive influence on American ideals, but is the chief cultural monument in English letters."

Miss Thompson commends a recent Protestant document which calls for the inclusion of instruction of pupils, whose parents so desire, within the regular schedule of the public school.

Another day, and recommends the reverent reading of selected Bible passages in the public schools.

"An early symptom of cultural collapse," she avers, "is always (continued on page five)

Eisenhower Asks Rededication To Religious Concepts

President-elect Eisenhower said on Dec. 22 that America can win honor and glory by rededicating itself to the religious concepts on which our government was founded.

He offered as a victory formula a rededication to basic religious concepts on which our government was founded.

Eisenhower, in a speech at the annual meeting of the Freedom Foundation, said that "no false theory such as communism can make any headway" on the people who have sold themselves on the strength of a government founded on religious concepts.

He received a scroll from the foundation for his activity in promoting better appreciation of the American way of life. The Freedom Foundation is an organization which makes annual awards to worthy persons in the field of

A LETTER FROM DAD

By E. LORENZO HOWARD.

Pal of Mine:
You have been sent into the mission field to reproduce for the gentle, the teachings of God. We learn these truths thru study and the gift of Holy Ghost. We have a work of art to reproduce and we have the greatest source material in the world to draw from. God Himself has given us the key to His warehouse of knowledge. We have but to seek and we shall find wisdom and understanding. We have but to seek and we shall find wisdom and understanding. We have but to seek and we shall find wisdom and understanding.

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A DOG—AS TRUE A FRIEND AS A MAN EVER HAD

A dog has been called the truest friend a man can have. Once a dog has attached himself to a person he never leaves him for life thru good and ill fate. A pet dog seems to be almost a necessity for the normal development of a boy.

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claimed the first painter had made a complete picture and a finished one. Rebellion flared at one time and the local citizens took to the streets. They tried to change the work of the authorized artists. A few, however, felt the addition of color and detail did not change the theme of the basic drawing; rather they lent beauty and understanding to the plain lines of the master sketch.

Before long, because of the attitude of the people in the kingdom, no two pictures were alike. Some had been so badly re-painted by unauthorized artists that they held no resemblance to the original. Needless to say the king was very angry. He had started out to do his subjects a service and they had not appreciated him, his servants!

The king called his princes to him. He instructed them as to their part in his new plan. They gathered a group of men and women, some of them artists, and they had no resemblance to the original. Needless to say the king was very angry. He had started out to do his subjects a service and they had not appreciated him, his servants!

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GOINGS AND COMINGS

CENTERVILLE BRANCH — The Winkles have moved from their home in Oregon as a visitor.

The Andy Hunt family spent the holidays with relatives in Idaho.

Redeek Leila Binkerd, children, John, Jackie, and Blaine, visited in Pinole while waiting for the ship in San Francisco for Guam, where her husband, Jack, is stationed; he is our former branch president.

Elder Harold Gammon and parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gammon, of Lehi, Utah, visited in the home of Elder Gammon, who is in the Northern area mission.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lane and family were able to travel to Salt Lake to see their son, Ed, who is in the Brazilian mission.

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Review Shows Dr. Widsote Author Many Great Books

By HAROLD LUNDSTROM.

Into his crowded life, Elder John A. Widsote, who died Nov. 28, found time to become one of the most prolific and respected writers in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. During his years of service to the Church, education, and public administration, he authored 30 books with an additional 800 titles in pamphlets, study courses, tracts and editorials.

Whether traveling on train or ship or even riding along in an automobile, he would be busy either writing some literary piece or proofreading another. Early and late he could be found at his book-writing desk in his home library.

In his picturesque hand style, he wrote down the left hand side of letter-sized paper, leaving the right half of the paper for insertions and corrections. From these sheets, typed and corrected, he prepared the manuscripts for the printers.

His First Book
Elder Widsote's first book, "A Commentary on the Doctrine and Covenants," was published in 1903 at the time he was serving as director of the Utah Agricultural College Experiment Station at Logan. His last book was his inspirational autobiography, "In A Sunlit Land," published only two months ago, after seven years of pleading by the publishers in securing his permission to publish the manuscript, which was collected originally from his two daughters and their children.

The pendulum of Elder Widsote's pen swung wide during the 45 years between these first and last books and achieved distinction for him in many fields: dry farming, irrigation, agriculture, education, health and the "Word of Wisdom." Church doctrine, government, and procedure, and more.

His last major book was the ambitious of his life, the monumental "Joseph Smith: Prophet After Truth, Prophet of God."

Editorial on 140 titles.

Editor's Word With Reporters How To Curtail Reports

Thanks for past services: cheer for the future.
Reports must now be curtailed in space and reporters will please do this shortening because the Bishop's messages, in most cases, can be interpreted by shortening to 10 to 50 per cent.

"We suggest beginning news by saying in effect, 'The past month's events include' and then briefly list them, giving only essential names and dates. Don't elaborate and comment so much."

Continue by saying in effect, "Continuing events include the following: list them, giving essential names and dates."

Try something like this and see how good it is. I wrote an article for the Messenger about "Gussie" who attends the nation's highest school in the State Building in NYC. The Utah State Building in NYC, 200 West of Salt Lake City, is 120 feet high. The tower is 370 feet high. The tower is 370 feet high.

What we wrote on Nov. 1, 1953, Nov. 10, we had to throw away. The 370-foot tower structure was being moved to the new site.

A book, twenty 60-mile pale of the role of the mischievous writer.

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BYU NEWS Howard Ruff Leads At BYU

The Delta Phi Male Chorus of BYU is composed of 40 returned missionaries at the "BYU." Their director is HOWARD RUFF of Berkeley Ward, and formerly of Berkeley Ward and formerly of Berkeley Ward.

His encouragement of writers and students was responsible for many published books and unpublished manuscripts.

Elder Widsote's literary style was simple and direct — a rare quality and comprehensively so. His Church and professional books, always best sellers, were serious and steady guides to readers, students and teachers.

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How Does California Stand Up Church-wide

Ever wonder how your state compares with the average for the Church? And how California stacks up with Utah, Idaho and Arizona?

In such items as Sacrament Attendance, Ward Activity, Atonement Priesthood activities.

Well, we have the figures for you, but of course they are for October, 1952; can't get reports from the whole Church compiled and printed press. Takes a little time.

And that wonderful South Los Angeles Stake led the whole Church again in ward teaching, and both Atonement and Atonement.

Let's not make Northern California feel like a loser. Let's make the Southland saints a bit more "up and doing" for October, the best month in Arizona.

Stake rates pretty well in Arizona. Priesthood figures, and San Joaquin for ward teaching.

A nationwide search for a spider in the Church average are Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Glendale, San Fernando, and Pasadena, Santa Barbara is there also.

INTERMOUNTAIN NEWS
Polio Serum Test Succeeds in Utah

Tested in Utah county as part of a nationwide search for a polio serum, gamma globulin has shown itself the only substance effective against the malady.

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis directed the test on thousands of Utah children.

Maybe Californians Could Take A Lesson From Utah

The Utah Old Age Lien Law stays on the books. Utah citizens at the last election retained their law which provides that at the death of a person who has received old-age aid, the state shall recover the cost of the aid from the estate of the person.

Elephants, Rhinos, Hippos, Tigers Came In Utah 2500 Years Ago

Those tropic creatures are hardly new to the state. The rock deposits found near Kanab, the wonder, "If Brigham Young had been a geologist he couldn't have picked a better place to interest him than the Great Salt Lake."

BU FOOTBALL GAME AT SAN JOSE

When the BYU football team came to San Jose to play the San Jose State College November 5, which they lost 27-7, four "Y" student body officers and Dr. Braithwaite, BYU student coordinator, came along and held a very carefully screened out births, weddings, showers, goings and comings, obituaries, for page five in the Messenger, and when you write each in a separate paragraph (so we may scissor them to paste each item with similar items from outside sources) be sure to write the line just as you see it printed that way, and save us time rewriting. Don't send more than 300 words. Try to have all reports typed, remember double spaced.

Want a few rules for capitalization? Don't capitalize: ward, stake, superintendent, counselor, secretary, president, priesthood, etc. Use the title as given in the Book of Mormon. Write the name of the stake, president, counselor, secretary, etc. as given in the Book of Mormon.

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Dr. Evan Perkins Recovers Health

Word comes from Fairchild, Washington, that Dr. Evan K. Perkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Anson Perkins, and formerly of San Francisco Stake, has recovered from an extensive illness.

He has been reassigned to Fairchild Air Force Base in his previous duties as chief of the medical service.

And his wife, Venice, expresses gratitude to their Bay Area friends who were so kind to them while Capt. Evan K. was confined to the Letterman Army Hospital; and also for the time of the elders at that time of crisis.

"Both Captain Perkins and I," says a letter from Mrs. Evan Perkins, "enjoyed reading the Messenger, and would appreciate receiving the paper again."

Their present address, given as 6055 Maple, Fairchild, Washington.

Why Advertise?

When Mark Twain was editor of a newspaper, a superintendent of a nationwide search for a spider in the Church average are Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Glendale, San Fernando, and Pasadena, Santa Barbara is there also.

INTERMOUNTAIN NEWS
Polio Serum Test Succeeds in Utah

Tested in Utah county as part of a nationwide search for a polio serum, gamma globulin has shown itself the only substance effective against the malady.

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis directed the test on thousands of Utah children.

Maybe Californians Could Take A Lesson From Utah

The Utah Old Age Lien Law stays on the books. Utah citizens at the last election retained their law which provides that at the death of a person who has received old-age aid, the state shall recover the cost of the aid from the estate of the person.

Elephants, Rhinos, Hippos, Tigers Came In Utah 2500 Years Ago

Those tropic creatures are hardly new to the state. The rock deposits found near Kanab, the wonder, "If Brigham Young had been a geologist he couldn't have picked a better place to interest him than the Great Salt Lake."

BU FOOTBALL GAME AT SAN JOSE

When the BYU football team came to San Jose to play the San Jose State College November 5, which they lost 27-7, four "Y" student body officers and Dr. Braithwaite, BYU student coordinator, came along and held a very carefully screened out births, weddings, showers, goings and comings, obituaries, for page five in the Messenger, and when you write each in a separate paragraph (so we may scissor them to paste each item with similar items from outside sources) be sure to write the line just as you see it printed that way, and save us time rewriting. Don't send more than 300 words. Try to have all reports typed, remember double spaced.

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Ferguson To Explain Mexican Expedition Now At Work

In what is believed to be two grand music and lecture programs, one in Berkeley Stake and one in Oakland Stake, Thomas Stuart Ferguson, president, will explain the newly formed New World Archaeological Foundation. He will tell the story of the creation of this expert-studied foundation and its present active expedition now actually digging in Southern Mexico in supposedly Book of Mormon lands.

Below is printed the scheduled events in the two stakes.

New World Archaeological Foundation's BERKELEY STAKE PROGRAM

Friday, Jan. 9 Berkeley Chapel 8 p.m.

(1) 45 Minutes Singing by Mormon Male Chorus Led by DIRECTOR ROBERT SANT

(2) Selected Readings from the Book of Mormon By FRANK J. PARSONS

(3) Report on Excavation Expedition now digging in Book of Mormon lands under the